New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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Maple Syrup

June 13, 2000

A special "THANK YOU" goes to New England producers and buyers who have helped us by completing the annual Maple Syrup survey during April and May.

SYRUP PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT NATIONWIDE

UNITED STATES: The 2000 U.S. maple syrup production totaled 1.23 million gallons, up four percent from last year and six percent above 1998. The forecast value of production is $33.3 million, an increase of two percent from 1999 and an increase of three percent from 1998. The U.S. estimate consists of the ten major producing states.

Vermont led the U.S. in production with 460,000 gallons of syrup, an increase of 24 percent from last season. Maine's production, at 250,000 gallons, increased 28 percent from 1999. New York was the third leading state with production of 210,000 gallons, up eight percent from last year.

Temperatures were generally favorable for good sap flow and syrup production in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. In all other producing States temperatures were unfavorable. Warmer than usual temperatures affected most States by shortening the length of the season. Overall, the season lasted an average of 27 days. This compares to 31 days in 1999. Season length ranged from 20 days in Ohio to 30 days in Maine.

Sugar content of the sap was below average, requiring approximately 46 gallons of sap to produce a gallon of syrup. This is in contrast with 43 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup in 1999. Most syrup was medium and dark amber colored, with very little light syrup produced.

NEW ENGLAND (excluding Rhode Island): Maple syrup production in New England for 2000 totaled 831,000 gallons, up 22 percent from last year. Vermont remained the largest producing state in New England and the nation, with 55 percent of the region's production and 37 percent of the total U.S. syrup.

Despite poor weather conditions in 2000, production increased in three of the five New England states, largely due to an increase in total taps. New England's 2000 sugaring season lasted approximately 29 days, unchanged from 1999. The average opening dates were February 19 in Connecticut, February 25 in Massachusetts, February 28 in New Hampshire, March 1 in Vermont and March 2 in Maine. Temperatures were reported to be 51 percent too warm, 46 percent favorable and three percent too cold. The sugar content of this year's sap ran below average, requiring 45 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup. Syrup color this year was darker than normal, with only 15 percent of production reported to be light amber in color. The average closing dates were March 19 in Connecticut, March 24 in Massachusetts, March 28 in New Hampshire, March 30 in Vermont and April 1 in Maine.

The preliminary value of New England's 2000 maple syrup crop, based on grower expectations, is $22.9 million. This is a 20 percent increase from the 1999 total value of $19.1 million for the five New England states surveyed. The preliminary average gallon equivalent price for New England syrup across the retail, wholesale and bulk markets is $27.52 which is one percent lower than the 1999 final price.

1999 PRICES AND SALES: Average gallon equivalent prices for 1999 maple syrup across retail, wholesale and bulk sales varied widely across the region. Connecticut's all sales equivalent increased $1.50 to $42.60 in 1999. Maine's all sales equivalent decreased $1.20 to $19.40. Massachusetts' all sales equivalent increased $2.60 to $38.80. New Hampshire's all sales equivalent increased $1.20 to $37.40. Vermont's all sales equivalent was unchanged at $29.00. As expected, Maine continues to have a low gallon equivalent price due to their large percentage of bulk sales. The 1999 gallon equivalent price of $27.90 across all New England states reflects one percent decrease from the 1998 price of $28.24.

This report is taken from the June issue of the national Crop Production report published by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service at 8:30 am on June 9, 2000.

This annual report includes prices received for the previous year's crop and production & expected prices for this year's crop.

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MAPLE SYRUP: Production, Price and Value, 1998 - 2000

STATE	Production			Average Gallon Equivalent Price of All Sales [1/]			Value of Production		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000 [2/]	1998	1999	2000 [2/]
	1,000 Gallons			Dollars			1,000 Dollars		
Connecticut	9	13	7	41.10	42.60	42.50	370	554	298
Maine	170	195	250	20.60	19.40	19.00	3,502	3,783	4,750
Massachusetts	47	44	39	36.20	38.80	40.00	1,701	1,707	1,560
New Hampshire	67	61	75	36.20	37.40	39.00	2,425	2,281	2,925
Vermont	360	370	460	29.00	29.00	29.00	10,440	10,730	13,340
NEW ENGLAND [3/]	**653**	**683**	**831**	**28.24**	**27.90**	**27.52**	**18,438**	**19,055**	**22,873**
Michigan	55	73	44	32.00	28.20	32.00	1,760	2,058	1,408
New York	231	195	210	26.85	27.30	25.40	6,202	5,324	5,334
Ohio	78	95	34	29.80	30.00	26.00	2,324	2,850	884
Pennsylvania	72	67	47	26.00	26.00	25.60	1,872	1,742	1,203
Wisconsin	70	75	65	23.10	23.70	25.20	1,617	1,778	1,638
UNITED STATES	**1,159**	**1,188**	**1,231**	**27.80**	**27.60**	**27.10**	**32,213**	**32,807**	**33,340**

[1/] *Average gallon equivalent price is a weighted average across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales. This price is lower for states, such as Maine, with more wholesale and bulk sales. The average gallon equivalent price is not the average retail price paid for a gallon of syrup -- see page 3 for retail gallon average prices.*

[2/] *2000 price and value are preliminary and based on grower expectations during April and May 2000.*

[3/] *New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, VT*

SOURCE: ***Crop Production***, 8:30 am, June 9, 2000, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, New England, 1998 - 1999

TYPE OF SALE	Connecticut		Maine		Massachusetts		New Hampshire		Vermont	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Percent									
Retail	70	75	10	10	60	70	60	70	40	40
Wholesale	15	15	5	5	20	20	20	15	15	15
Bulk	15	10	85	85	20	10	20	15	45	45

SOURCE: ***Crop Production***, 8:30 am, June 9, 2000, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, Other States, 1998 - 1999

TYPE OF SALE	Michigan		New York		Ohio		Pennsylvania		Wisconsin	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Percent									
Retail	58	45	43	47	63	58	41	52	35	52
Wholesale & Bulk	42	55	57	53	37	42	59	48	65	48

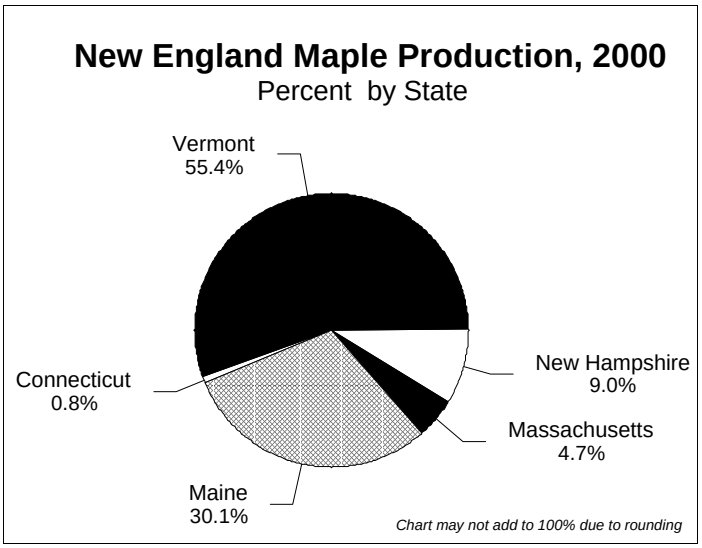
SOURCE: ***Crop Production***, 8:30 am, June 9, 2000, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

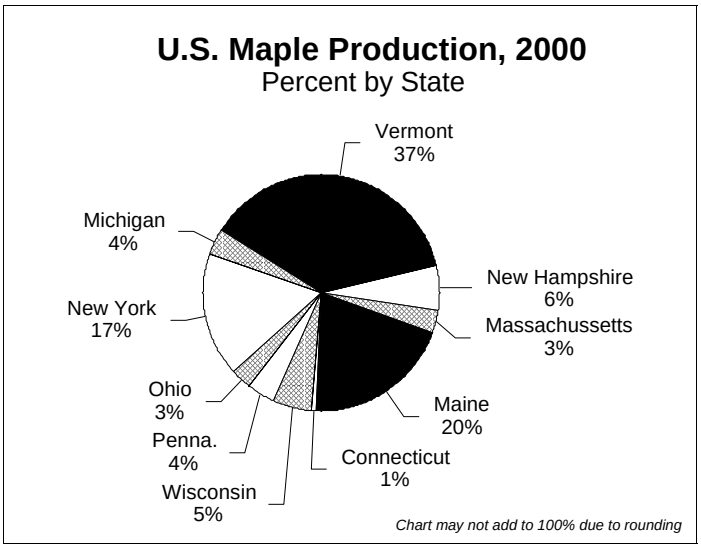
MAPLE SYRUP: Prices by Type of Sales and Size of Container, 1998 - 1999

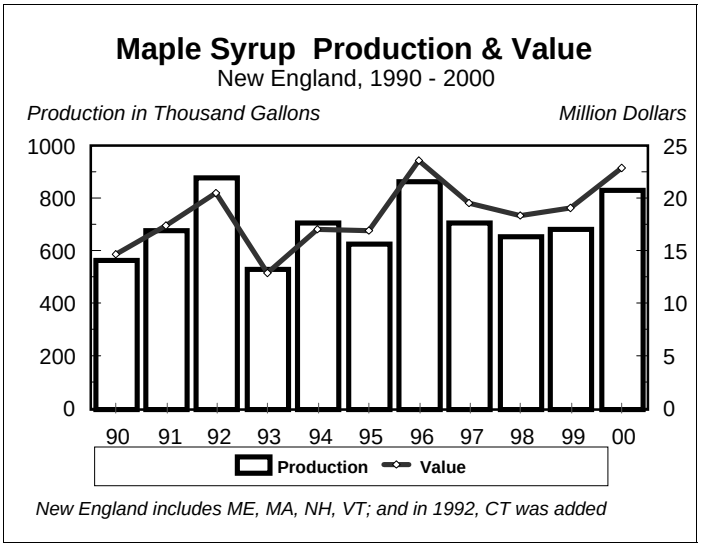
STATE & YEAR	Retail					Wholesale					Bulk					All Sales gallon equivalent price [1/]
	Gal	½ Gal	Quart	Pint	½ Pint	Gal	½ Gal	Quart	Pint	½ Pint	Grade A			Grade B & C	All Grades	
											light amber	med amber	dark amber			
	Dollars Per Container										Dollars Per Pound [2/]					Dollars
Connecticut																
1998	34.30	19.60	11.40	7.10	4.65	33.90	18.20	10.10	5.60	3.65	1.60	1.83	1.60	1.38	1.70	41.10
1999	36.40	20.60	12.00	7.00	4.70	30.20	11.90	9.10	5.30	3.45	–	1.81	1.50	1.32	1.40	42.60
Maine																
1998	33.30	17.70	10.00	5.85	4.15	26.10	15.90	8.55	4.90	3.60	1.59	1.54	1.49	1.41	1.55	20.60
1999	29.00	15.70	9.50	5.50	3.70	26.80	14.50	8.00	4.70	3.65	1.40	1.45	1.41	1.34	1.45	19.40
Massachusetts																
1998	31.90	18.60	11.20	6.30	5.05	26.40	15.40	8.30	5.05	3.05	2.25	1.83	2.20	1.24	2.10	36.20
1999	34.20	20.00	11.40	6.50	4.15	26.90	15.40	8.50	4.65	3.00	1.97	1.54	1.45	1.18	1.50	38.80
New Hampshire																
1998	30.90	17.70	10.80	6.50	3.85	27.60	15.60	8.20	4.95	3.10	3.66	1.81	1.46	1.38	2.45	36.20
1999	33.50	19.00	11.20	6.50	4.00	29.40	15.70	8.60	5.00	3.00	1.91	1.75	1.55	1.20	1.55	37.40
Vermont																
1998	29.80	17.60	10.30	6.35	4.45	26.80	15.50	8.60	5.00	3.05	1.91	1.80	1.67	1.55	1.80	29.00
1999	30.70	18.10	10.50	6.70	4.30	25.40	15.40	8.60	5.15	3.25	1.95	1.83	1.69	1.50	1.80	29.00
Michigan																
1998	29.50	16.10	9.30	5.30	3.20	29.30	14.90	7.70	4.30	2.20	--	--	--	--	1.90	32.00
1999	31.50	17.40	9.60	6.00	4.10	26.10	15.50	8.30	4.40	3.00	--	--	--	--	1.50	28.20
New York																
1998	30.35	17.10	10.00	6.25	4.10	29.80	16.40	8.10	4.85	2.95	--	--	--	--	1.60	26.85
1999	29.70	16.60	9.35	5.95	3.65	25.50	14.80	7.90	4.70	2.05	--	--	--	--	1.35	27.30
Ohio																
1998	29.70	16.80	9.45	6.20	4.25	24.40	13.40	8.55	5.25	3.60	--	--	--	--	1.70	29.80
1999	29.00	16.60	10.10	6.30	4.10	26.20	14.30	8.20	5.10	3.65	--	--	--	--	1.80	30.00
Pennsylvania																
1998	28.50	16.50	9.46	5.59	3.44	25.00	14.40	8.24	4.75	2.96	--	--	--	--	1.54	26.00
1999	27.50	16.10	9.25	5.76	3.60	26.70	14.40	8.28	5.06	3.15	--	--	--	--	1.40	26.00
Wisconsin																
1998	26.20	14.30	7.50	4.30	2.70	25.60	13.60	7.20	3.90	2.40	--	--	--	--	1.50	23.10
1999	27.20	15.10	8.00	4.80	3.20	27.10	14.90	7.90	4.60	2.80	--	--	--	--	1.50	23.70

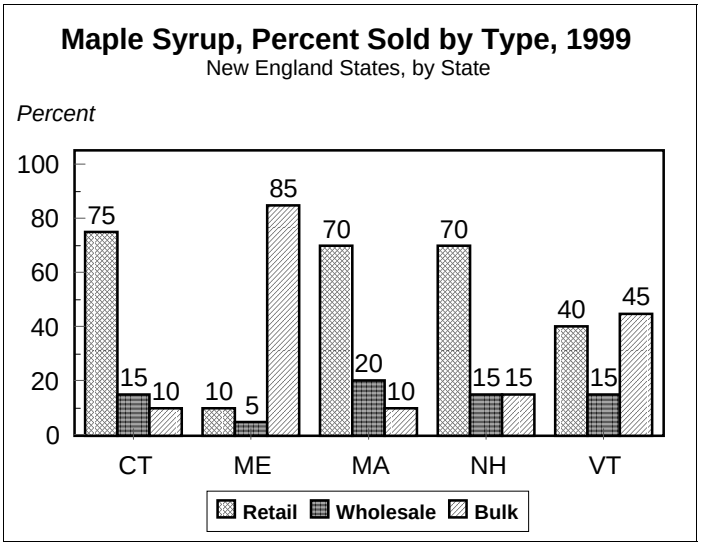
[1/] *Average gallon equivalent price is a weighted average across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales.*
[2/] *For dollars per gallon: multiply dollars per pound by 11.03 pounds per gallon*
[3/] *Data withheld to prevent disclosure of individual operations*

SOURCE: **Crop Production**, 8:30 am, June 9, 2000, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.


New England Maple Production, 2000
Percent by State
Vermont 55.4%
New Hampshire 9.0%
Massachusetts 4.7%
Maine 30.1%
Connecticut 0.8%
Chart may not add to 100% due to rounding


U.S. Maple Production, 2000
Percent by State
Vermont 37%
New Hampshire 6%
Massachussetts 3%
Maine 20%
Connecticut 1%
Wisconsin 5%
Penna. 4%
Ohio 3%
New York 17%
Michigan 4%
Chart may not add to 100% due to rounding


Maple Syrup Production & Value
New England, 1990 - 2000
Production in Thousand Gallons
Million Dollars
1000
800
600
400
200
0
25
20
15
10
5
0
90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00
Production
Value
New England includes ME, MA, NH, VT; and in 1992, CT was added


Maple Syrup, Percent Sold by Type, 1999
New England States, by State
Percent
100
80
60
40
20
0
75 15 10
10 5 85
70 20 10
70 15 15
40 15 45
CT ME MA NH VT
Retail
Wholesale
Bulk

FREQUENT 2000 COMMENTS FROM MAPLE PRODUCERS, BY COUNTY

CONNECTICUT - Fairfield: Unusually warm February and March. **Hartford:** Season started early. No extended warm or cold periods. Lowest yield/tap since start of our records in 1985. Got off weather-wise pretty good. Then we had a warm spell for seven days. Sap turned cloudy, then we started making Dark Amber. We came back a little but it never ran good at all. Sugar sand also was very heavy. Started well but then got warm early. It got cold toward the middle of March, but the flow did not return to good levels. Had to dump out final flow as it started to turn before I had a chance to boil it. Severe drought in summer of 1999 seems to also be to blame. **Litchfield:** Temperatures never were cold enough at night to maintain sap flow. February started out very cold and a lot of snow. We tapped our trees on snow shoes. Then the 23rd of February it got warm and just stayed warm. We were ready in early February but hardly had any sap until March. Season ended seven to ten days earlier than normal. I tapped on February 19th - the week prior to that was perfect. I did not have many good runs this year. Season started out good but got warm much too fast. Sap seemed to spoil fast. Sap ran in December, January, February and March - you just guessed when to tap. We tapped March 1st and got what was basically a mid-season syrup, fairly dark, very sweet. This quickly deteriorated to what I call a brown sugar flavor - good on pancakes but not what we like as good maple syrup. Started out perfect with 20 inches of snow in the woods with frost in the ground. Then the rain and fog came and melted the snow and frost. Then had five days when the temperature never went below freezing. Sap ran good for about a week, then another warm spell again that hurt us bad. No early light syrup, just medium and getting darker in the last week of production. Pretty good season if you got the early run. **Middlesex:** Worst maple syrup season we've had in 25 years. Last couple of weeks yielded the darkest, muddiest looking syrup, rivaling the worst we've ever produced. The season only had three runs with five to seven days between. The overnight temperatures stayed above freezing. The trees started budding two weeks early. **New Haven:** February stayed too cold for very much sap flow until the end of the month. Was partially tapped out on the 20th when we collected our first sap. By the time I was fully tapped out for a day or so, the weather turned warm with beautiful days for sap flow but no freezes at night. Started making late season sap which lasted throughout March. This all created "warm weather late season sap" which is dark. By the last two days sap run hardly enough to boil. Very poor yield and dark All in area reported re-tapping and getting 1/3 regular run. **New London:** Only one good run in late February. Otherwise, much too warm at night. Very poor year - runs were half of regular volumes expected. Too cold during day most of February; too warm at night most of March. Doubled number of taps, but only collected 3/4 of last year's crop. **Tolland:** Terrible syrup weather. Too cold at start and then one week of favorable temperatures and then quickly too warm. First two runs in late February syrup was light, heavy runs. Then after, slow runs and dark syrup. Dark syrup, very good taste. Drought of 1999 factored in when it got warm and stayed warm. Too long between runs. Holes dried out faster. **Windham:** Too many stretches of three to four days and nights above freezing almost from the start -- plus not enough moisture in the ground. Started tapping February 16th with about eight to ten inches of snow cover. Appeared to be typical northern New England maple syrup weather but then snow cover left and the nights were too warm. Many nights would have been ideal had the temperature gone just 5 degrees lower. Too warm, very dark syrup. Too much water in sap but quality of syrup was very good. Two-thirds of the syrup was darker than Dark Amber. Third worst year in last 28 years. Due to extended warm periods of several days followed by extended cold periods, we did not receive a regular fluctuation in temperature to promote a good sap flow.

MAINE - Androscoggin: The season started in early March, ran for three days, shut down for nearly a week, and ran well the last week. Trees shut off abruptly with rise in temperature day and night. **Aroostook:** On mild nights the sap flowed day and night. Sugar content average. Earliest starting and finishing dates ever. Poor combination of cold and hot. **Cumberland:** It got warm too early and stayed warm. Season was short and production was low. Overall, the season was way too warm. **Franklin:** The flavor was good but the color stayed very dark. Run was excellent for a short period of time. Early, early, early was the name of the game this year. Stopped real early, but overall year was okay. Most of the time (first part) it was favorable - last of season, rainy and warm. **Kennebec:** Warm spells, then very cold spells, causing sap to flow out around spiles and down the tree. Season has become very short in this area of the state. The weather can not be predicted, warm one day and cold the next. **Lincoln:** Early on it was too warm. Because of heavy rain storms there were several days of heavy sap flow but I got less final syrup than expected. It

was dark but sweeter than usual. **Oxford:** The syrup season started early and ended early for the third year in a row. We tapped our trees March 5th and 6th. We could have tapped two full weeks earlier, which is very early for our locality. If we had tapped in February, we would have made an additional 20 to 40 gallons of syrup. The season was a vast improvement on the previous two seasons. Deep snow caused late tapping, but by mid March sap flow was more favorable than past several years. Season shortened by warm spree starting March 22 -24. The sugar content was higher. **Penobscot:** Cold then warm too long at a time. Only had about three distinct runs, one lasted four to five days. It came fast and furious. Early start and earlier finish. **Piscataquis:** Warmed up too quickly. Only one week of favorable weather. Very short season. **Somerset:** Started out real good. Season could have been a little bit longer if it didn't warm up so fast. Made a lot of dark syrup compared to other years. Very sweet sap this year. Too warm in late February, early March, good afterwards until last week in March. Season ended early but was good. Earliest season for the northern area ever. **Waldo:** Another early season - poor sap and syrup ratios on account of last year's drought. **Washington:** The season started early and seemed to end early. **York:** Beginning season poor, but last 12 days or so sap flow was good. Beginning of season, syrup was Medium Amber, but got darker towards the end and dark, Dark Amber by the very end. Didn't have the fluctuation in temperature for adequate flow. Overall, too warm with more dark than medium and light.

MASSACHUSETTS - Berkshire: At start of season, syrup was medium grade but quickly turned dark and then became darker than B grade for most of the season. Tastes good though. Low sugar content due to last summer's drought. Too many warm spells. **Franklin:** There were too many warm days in March this year. Also periods of days and nights without freezing. The syrup flavor is good this year, but less light syrup and more of the darker grades. Due to the unreasonably warm temperatures, sap production was drastically reduced and quality of syrup produced was mostly dark and otherwise poor. **Hampden:** Syrup had good flavor and color if you like dark or medium. We did not get the cold nights we needed. **Hampshire:** Biggest problems were too warm and too many nights above freezing. Great weather to dry up the holes but not for sap flow. Buds on trees started to enlarge by third week in March. Made more Dark Amber grade B than in the last few years. **Worcester:** Season started a little too warm. Biggest run was from March 1 to March 9, ran every day and syrup got lighter each day. Season ended early, but we made our season's average.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Belknap: Sugar content below normal. Short season in length of time. Two week warm spell at beginning of March quickly darkened syrup. Cold snap mid-March saved the season. Last two weeks of season produced some terrific runs before it just got too warm. Good flavored syrup even though we made fairly small amounts of light and medium. **Carroll:** Periods of too warm weather interspersed with fantastic runs, lasting day and night. We were plagued with sugar sand in most of the crop. Unable to filter it out despite multiple attempts, so syrup was light but cloudy. Light syrup first of the season, very little medium, then much darker. **Cheshire:** Season started early and ended early. Too many warm spells. Almost ideal weather conditions at the end of February through first week of March, spotty thereafter. Made no light syrup, little medium, a lot of dark and more grades B and C than I've ever made. Darker syrup but with fancy flavor. **Coos:** Good sap flow but short season. Flow started very early leaving us somewhat unprepared. Warm spell in early April didn't cease, so we finished up very early. Should have started tapping middle of February. We experienced the hardest runs in memory. Most of crop light or high medium. **Grafton:** Short, but extremely good season. Started early and stopped early. Conditions better than last two seasons. Good quality syrup. Good steady run for a short season - about three weeks. Intensive sugaring from March 1 to March 21 and excellent flavor after a considerable drought last summer. Never had a year like this - started out making dark syrup and then moved to medium for nearly all the season. Short but very sweet sap didn't drip - it poured. Sugar content started low and stayed low. **Hillsborough:** We felt this was a great season weather wise with one warm spell. Dark syrup from the beginning. Short but somewhat intense season. Ended early and abruptly. We had about the same winter with snow as previous two winters but my belief is that the lack of rain last summer played a real part in this springs lack of good sap runs. What syrup we did make was the best tasting ever. Low sugar content. Warm weather caused sap to cloud and syrup to darken. **Merrimack:** Good season, excellent flavor, very little light, mostly medium and dark. Started later, finished early. Conditions were mostly good. Very consistent flow pattern for most of season. Overall, the weather was too warm to make light syrup. We made very nice medium. Generally quite good once the season finally got going. **Rockingham:** The weather was too warm. The sugar content was very low, probably

because of the drought last summer. All syrup was Dark Amber - no medium, no B. Had one week of excellent run. **Sullivan:** We started with a dark B on the first run then the second run turned to Dark Amber. Second week about the sixth or seventh run came down to Medium Amber. No fancy this year but the last two runs were almost fancy, just a shade dark. Did not have extremely cold or warm spells. All in all a good year. Sugar content of sap was poor, probably due to drought conditions in 1999.

VERMONT - Addison: The season was a yo-yo in color and flow. We started dark went to fancy then to Grade B, back to fancy and then slowly to Grade C. Season was early and hard to keep up with. We had a very disappointing year, I believe caused by drought last year. **Bennington:** Short season - almost over before it got started. Started with very Dark Amber and got darker except for one day with a halfway decent run. Sap sugar content was lower than normal. **Caledonia:** The season appears to be a month earlier. It got too hot during the day and the wind blew too much, not enough cold nights. **Chittenden:** Shortest season we have experienced in our 10 years here. Sap ran in the middle of February and we were not tapped yet. Season short, fast and furious. The conditions were such that it condensed the season by half. It was too warm too early resulting in a darker syrup color. **Essex:** First half of the season was good, second half never came - too warm. **Franklin:** The season seemed to start early - if you didn't tap with snow shoes, you missed the first run. I pulled my taps the first of April, then we got some good sugar weather, so I lost some by cleaning up too early. The weather got too warm and stayed warm. Color was very good with light, medium and turning grade B at the end. **Lamoille:** Looked like an excellent year then too much warm weather and too many dying trees. We were tapped early and ready, and it came fast. We put in some long days with very few breaks but it went well. Excellent color and flavor. **Orange:** Season was short, quality was good - some fancy, mostly medium. Weather was good for sap production, generally a darker grade. This was a very intense season - all the sap flowed in about three weeks time with few breaks. I got started way too late - my friends tapped the middle of February and had a very good year. Season was short but that is good. Sap flowed alright, but it never seemed to really run like I have seen it run before. Seems like the trees only let you have what they wanted to. **Orleans:** Started too early and stopped too soon. Season could have been better if the weather had not gotten quite so warm. Sap was running in our county the last week of February. I did not get tapped until March 4th or 5th. We did not get much rain or snow during the right time and I think trees got very dry and sap stopped running. Towards the end we just couldn't get cool enough night time temperatures. Darker syrup and very low sugar content in sap. **Rutland:** Sap and conditions good - sugar content low. Weather was good for about two weeks and sap ran good. Lots of sap but not very sweet. Made all dark syrup - no fancy. **Washington:** Early season with not as much light color syrup. Good runs with ideal weather but ended early with extraordinary warm weather. Temperatures varied wildly mid to late season. Could have been a super season except for nine days of too warm weather. Season ended early. **Windham:** We found it to be up and down from too warm to too cold. Season started two weeks earlier than usual and ended two weeks earlier than usual. Days were much too warm and temperatures at night did not get low enough for a good freeze. Quality was good but not real good runs and sap was not very sweet. Not long enough winter, low sugar content, trees still feeling last year's drought. Sap was not sweet this year and spent too much time in the pan, thus dark syrup. No second chances this season, an abrupt start to the season, steady production followed by an early and sudden end. **Windsor:** Syrup was darker at start of the season than anytime in the past 30 years. Made no fancy at all. The majority was Dark Amber. An early season with strong sap flow. Season was short and sweet, fast and furious with excellent syrup. Low sugar content at start and finish but good in the middle. Excellent weather, but ended a week earlier than normal due to abnormal warm days. Nice season - a lot of large runs of sap. Short, awesome season - sad had to be boiled in a hurry to keep color good. The weather was better this year than I have seen it for the last few years. Too bad it had to warm up so soon for so long. Syrup color was a little darker than normal. Made a lot of medium, hardly any fancy or grade B. Amber Dark was the best tasting, in a long time. Sap quality was on the poor side. The sap flow was a lot stronger than in past years. It ran hard when it ran and we were always behind. That's a good thing, good year all in all. Sap sugar was down, having an effect on syrup color. The season ended early due to warm spell the first week of April.

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